

system. That will be laid over. (See pages 1606-07 of the Legislative Journal.)

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Before we proceed, I would like to call the senators' attention to the south balcony. Special guests today of Senator Beyer are 27 fourth graders from Gretna Elementary in Gretna, Nebraska, and their teacher. Will you please rise and be recognized. Welcome to the Chamber. Thank you. We will proceed with General File, LB 728.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Madam President, we were considering LB 728 before lunch. At that time, we were considering a divided amendment to the committee amendments and we were on the second portion of that. It was offered by Senators Landis and Kristensen.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. We will proceed with debate. The speaking order is Senator Kristensen, followed by Senators Bohlke, Ashford and Beutler. Senator Kristensen.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Madam President and members of the Legislature. Senator Rasmussen struck my interest with her conversation with Senator Ashford here right before lunch and, Senator Rasmussen, if I could speak to you to listen, well, you don't need to listen, but I want to speak to you to address the problem that you raised. I'm sorry if I interrupted you. One of the...if I get it correctly, one of the concerns you had was the fact that if there had been some abuse would the parties have to meet face to face. In other words, one, is that's an element of intimidation; two, it's certainly a very painful experience, if that's the reason for the dissolution, to have to be forced back into that situation, and Senator Ashford's comment to that was we needed to put another, perhaps another paragraph into the law that, if there were those allegations, then there would not be the mandatory mediation process. And my comment to that is, is that's...goes back to the old days before we had no-fault divorce and that there had to be reasons for having a divorce, and so oftentimes people couldn't agree. They couldn't get along together, but the law didn't really recognize you couldn't get along together and you had to fall within those sorts of allegations so you made allegations of cruelty, adultery and the system became made up of people who would make these allegations to justify getting the divorce, and when no-fault divorce came in, the system did become more open. Some argue it was easier to get a divorce, but it really did